

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, HK,

SUBJECT: PRC VISIT OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE DELEGATION

INCLUDING GOVERNOR SHAPP

REF: HONG KONG 0908

1. DELEGATION OF ABOUT 18 MEMBERS FROM PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY (PSU) INCLUDING GOVERNOR AND MRS. SHAPP OF PENNSYLVANIA WILL VISIT PRC FEB. 8-28. INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP LED BY DR. JOHN W. OSWALD, PRESIDENT OF PSU, IS TRAVELLING UNDER AUSPICES OF PSU AND INCLUDES PROFESSOR PARRIS CHANG (POLITICAL SCIENTIST AND CHINA SPECIALIST WHO ORGANIZED GROUP) AND OTHER SCIENTISTS AND EDUCATORS. DELEGATION STRENGTH IS REPORTEDLY 11 SCHOLARS, FIVE WIVES (NUMBER NOT CERTAIN), AND GOVERNOR AND MRS. SHAPP. GOVERNOR IS TRAVELLING WITH GROUP IN HIS CAPACITY AS A TRUSTEE OF PSU. DELEGATION'S VISAS HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND WERE PICKED UP AT PRCLO IN DECEMBER.

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2. PSU DELEGATION WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO VISIT PRC

LAST FALL BUT VISIT POSTPONED BY CHINESE. ARRANGEMENTS BY PSU WITH CHINESE HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY PRIVATE AND THERE HAS BEEN NO USG FACILITATION ON USG CONTACT WITH PRCLO ON THIS VISIT. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT GOVERNOR SHAPP INTENDED TO GO WITH GROUP ORIGINALLY, BUT HE HAS BEEN VIGOROUSLY PURSUING MEANS TO VISIT PRC AND MADE VERY PERSISTENT EFFORT TO JOIN PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA ON ITS SEPTEMBER VISIT TO PRC. GOVERNOR SHAPP IS SAID TO BE TRAVELLING IN "PRIVATE CAPACITY." THE CHINESE ARE AWARE THAT SHAPP IS GOVERNOR AND IS MEMBER OF GROUP BUT THEY HAVE AGREED TO RECEIVE HIM ONLY IN CAPACITY AS PSU TRUSTEE.

3. TO BEST OF OUR INFORMATION, GROUP'S TENTATIVE ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS. FEB. 7 ARRIVE HONG KONG (POSSIBLY FEB 6). FEB 8 ENTER PRC AT SHUMCHUN, FEB 8-10 CANTON. FEB 10-14 SHANGHAI. FEB 14-16 SOOCHOW. FEB 17-18 WUHSI. FEB 19-20 NANKING. FEB 21-27 PEKING. RETURN HONG KONG FEB 28. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD GROUP HOPES TO VISIT LINGNAN UNIVERSITY IN CANTON, BUT IF IT THINKS SCHOOL IS STILL NAMED LINGNAN IT PROBABLY DOES NOT HAVE APPOINTMENT ARRANGED.

4. MEMBER OF DELEGATION DR. RICHARD CUNNINGHAM, OF PSU IS MECHANICAL ENGINEER. HE IS REPORTEDLY CARRYING LETTER FROM AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS WHICH HE WISHES TO DELIVER TO CHINESE COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION IF HE CAN IDENTIFY IT. HE HAS HEARD OF INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AT CHANGCHUN, AND CHINESE INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PRESUMABLY IN PEKING UNDER CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. WE ADVISED HIM TO INQUIRE OF HIS CHINESE HOSTS IN PRC WHICH WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE INSTITUTION TO PRESENT HIS LETTER, AND HE MAY ASK USLO ABOUT THIS.

5. WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE GROUP WILL STAY IN HONG KONG. HOST ORGANIZATION FOR PRC VISIT IN CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE. WE THINK IT IS LIKELY GROUP WILL CONTACT BOTH CONGEN AND USLO AND PERHAPS ASK FOR BRIEFING. KISSINGER

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